

Forest Owlet, recorded from Melghat Tiger Reserve by the second author; the call was verified with records at the Bombay Natural History Society. As soon as we played the call, the Owlet immediately responded and came closer to investigate. It sat on a leafless teak *Tectona grandis* tree for about 10 minutes. We continued playing the call and to our surprise at around 1725 hrs one more bird responded to the call. Therefore, in all two birds were present in the vicinity. One of them approached us, up to a distance of c. 150 m. We got an opportunity to take some photographs of this individual and carefully observe its plumage. The crown, nape and back were unspotted brown, sharply contrasting with the broadly blackish and white banded wings. The breast looked entirely dull brown, contrasting sharply with the white belly.

We observed another Forest Owlet later in the day close to the site where we first observed it. The belly of the owl was distinctly blotched. The body colour appeared darker with a stumpy tail. This suggested that the owl was an immature and that the earlier birds could have been one of the parent birds.

Therefore, we conclude successful breeding of the Forest Owlet in Yawal Wildlife Sanctuary. We have been able to identify the major stress factors in Yawal WS, which would possibly affect the Forest Owlet population in the Sanctuary. The stressors are listed below:

- Clearing of land for agriculture within the Sanctuary, some nesting trees may have been affected.
- Infiltration of villagers from Madhya Pradesh for collection of fire wood and timber.
- Encroachment for agriculture and new settlements within the Sanctuary.
- Forest fires in the Sanctuary.
- Many proposed and existing minor irrigation dams in the last remaining open scrub forest.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are very grateful to all the support staff that was present during the survey. Thanks are due to Dr. Girish Jathar and Dr. Asad R. Rahmani for spending their valuable time to comment on the draft of this note.

#### REFERENCES

- KING, B.F. & P.C. RASMUSSEN (1998): The rediscovery of the Forest Owlet *Athene (Heteroglaux) blewitti*. *Forktail 14*: 51-53.
- RASMUSSEN, P.C. & N.J. COLLAR (1998): Identification, distribution and status of the Forest Owlet *Athene (Heteroglaux) blewitti*. *Forktail 14*: 41-49.
- ISHTIAQ, F. & A.R. RAHMANI (2000): Further information on status and distribution of Forest Owlet *Athene (Heteroglaux) blewitti*. *Forktail 16*: 172-173.
- JATHAR, G.A. & A.R. RAHMANI (2004): Ecological studies of the Forest Spotted Owlet *Athene (Heteroglaux) blewitti*. Technical report. Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai, India. Pp. 77.

### 6. ULTRAMARINE FLYCATCHER *FICEDULA SUPERCILIARIS* IN KACHCHH, GUJARAT

J.K. TIWARI<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Centre for Desert and Ocean, Village Moti Virani, Taluka Nakhtrana, Kutch 370 665, Gujarat, India. Email: cedoindia@yahoo.com

Pingleshwar temple area, on the southern coast of Kachchh, Gujarat, India, has perhaps the largest tall tree groves in the area. During a bird watching trip on October 30, 2008, I came across an Ultramarine Flycatcher *Ficedula superciliaris* in a tree grove at Pingleshwar (area 200 sq. m).

So far, the Ultramarine Flycatcher has been reported from other parts of Gujarat, but not from Kachchh (Ali 1945; Grimmett and Inskipp 1998; Kazmierczak 2000; Rasmusseen

2005). There are five records of this bird from Gujarat (Bakul Trivedi pers. comm.) .

The earlier records were by Bakul Trivedi at Jessore Sloth Bear Sanctuary, Polo Vijaynagar and by Bharat Jethva at Indroda Park, Gandhinagar.

This sighting of the Ultramarine Flycatcher in Pingleshwar temple area is thus a new record for Kachchh.

#### REFERENCES

- ALI, S. (1945): Birds of Kutch. Pp.1-175. Oxford University Press, Mumbai.
- GRIMMETT, R., C. INSKIPP & T. INSKIPP (1998): Birds of Indian Subcontinent. 1st edition. London; Christopher Helm, A & C Black.
- KAZMIERCZAK, K. (2000): A Field Guide to the Birds of India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and the Maldives. Om Book Service. New Delhi.
- RASMUSSEEN, P.C. & J.C. ANDERTON (2005): Birds of South Asia. The Ripley Guide. 2 vols. Washington D.C. and Barcelona: Smithsonian Institution & Lynx Edicions.